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Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 INR-05 L-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 SP-02

/048 W
---------- 022533
P R 241039Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1093
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2612

LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, ZA, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MCNALLY VISIT TO ZAMBIA ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: LUSAKA 1048

1. UK HICOM (MILES) TOLD ME TOM MCNALLY, LABOR PARTY ADVISOR IN THE FCO, MADE SECRET, ONE-DAY FLYING VISIT TO ZAMBIA, ARRIVING EVENING DEC 19 AND DEPARTING EVENING DEC 20. THERE WAS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CALLING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA WITH ZAMBIANS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC AND IMPATIENT AND BRITISH CONCERNED ABOUT SMITH'S READINESS AND CHANCES OF SUCCESS FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE.
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2. TALKS WERE HELD AT STATE HOUSE FRIDAY MORNING,
DEC 20. UK HICOM HOSTED LUNCHEON FOR BOTH SIDES.
ZAMBIAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
MARK CHONA, ASSISTED BY MOFA UNDER SECRETARY
MANDA, PERMSEC MASANINGA AND CHONA'S ASSISTANT
CHIPAMPATA. ALSO PRESENT IN DISCUSSIONS WERE
TANZANIAN AND BOTSWANAN HICOMS. IN ADDITION TO
MCNALLY AND MILES, BRITISH WERE REPRESENTED BY
DEPUTY HICOM MCQUIGGAN AND FIRST SECRETARY VARCOE
WHO HAD BEEN SECRETARY TO THE PEARCE COMMISSION.
MILES SAID MEETING IN ESSENCE "PASSED THE BABY
TO US." THAT IS, AFRICANS TOLD THE BRITISH IT WAS NOW UP
TO THEM TO ASSUME THEIR SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY AND
CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. IN THE PAST THE BRITISH
HAD BEEN ABLE TO EVADE THE ISSUE BY RAISING DOUBTS THAT
THENATIONALISTS AND THE SMITH REGIME COULD BE BROUGHT
TOGETHER. NOW WHILE THESE DOUBTS REMOVED BY
EARLY DECEMBER ACTIONS BY RHODEISANS IN AND OUT OF
POWER, MILES EXPLAINED, THERE ARE STILL MANY
LINGERING UNCERTAINTIES THAT A MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT
CAN BE REACHED. FCO SECRETARY CALLAGHAN SAID TO
FAVOR FURTHER DIRECT SOUNDINGS BY BRITISH ON THE DISPOSITION
AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TWO RHODESIAN SIDES TO ANY AGREEMENT.
CHONA, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO FEEL ALL NECESSARY ELEMENTS
WERE PRESENT AND FAVORABLE TO A SETTLEMENT.

3. I ASKED MILES IF ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE VISIT
OF FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO LUSAKA AT THE END
OF THIS MONTH AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON A DATE AND VENUE
FOR CALLING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. HE DID
NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY BUT FELT CALLAGHAN WOULD
WANT TO KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT THE ATTITUDES AND
OBJECTIVES OF IAN SMITH AND THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS AND WHETHER
A CONFERENCE WAS LIKELY TO SUCCEED BEFORE RUSHING
INTO A CONVOCATION. CALLAGHAN ALSO WILL WANT TO HAVE
SEARCHING DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND FONMIN
MWAANGA WHILE IN ZAMBIA. MILES SAID CALLAGHAN
WAS DISPOSED TO MEET WITH SMITH, INDICATING THAT FEELERS
HAD ALREADY GONE OUT IN THAT DIRECTION. HE WAS UNCERTAIN
WHEN I ASKED WHETHER A MEETING WITH SMITH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE
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IN ZAMBIA OR LONDON. HE IMPLIED EITHER WAS POSSIBLE.
MILES SAID THE BRITISH WERE UNCERTAIN WHETHER SMITH -- IN
HIS CONCILIATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS EARLY THIS MONTH --
WAS ACTING OUT OF FEAR OR OUTSIDE PRESSURE.
WILKOWSKI

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